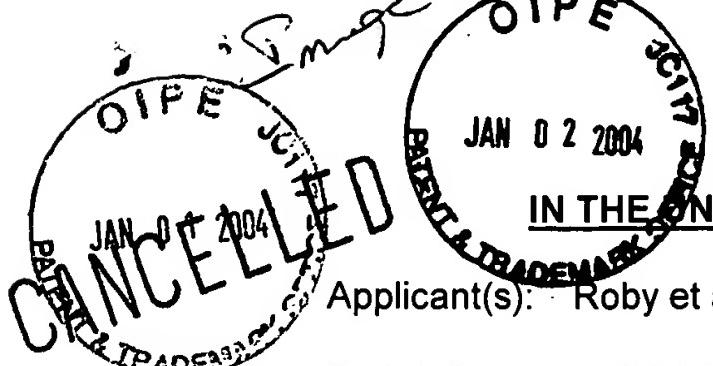


PATENT

Atty. Docket No.: 2788 (203-2854)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Roby et al.

Examiner: J.K. Michener

Serial No.: 09/964,901

Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: September 27, 2001

Dated: December 31, 2003

For: **SILICONIZED SURGICAL NEEDLES AND METHODS FOR
THEIR MANUFACTURE**

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- [] Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- [] A verified statement to establish small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- [X] No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	ADDIT. RATE FEE OR	ADDIT. RATE FEE
TOTAL	*15	MINUS **29	=	X 9 \$	X 18 \$ 0
INDEP.	*1	MINUS **4	=	X 43 \$	X 86 \$ 0
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				X 140 \$	X 280 \$ 0
				TOTAL	OR TOTAL \$ 0

ADDIT. FEE \$ -0-

* If the entry in Co. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

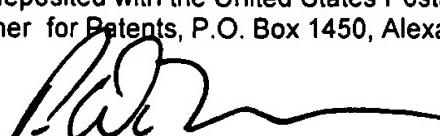
** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid for" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20".

*** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3".

The Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on date below.

Dated: December 31, 2003

 Peter DeLuca

- Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 in the amount of \$_____. Two (2) copies of this sheet are enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$____ is enclosed.
- Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 50-2140 therefor. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

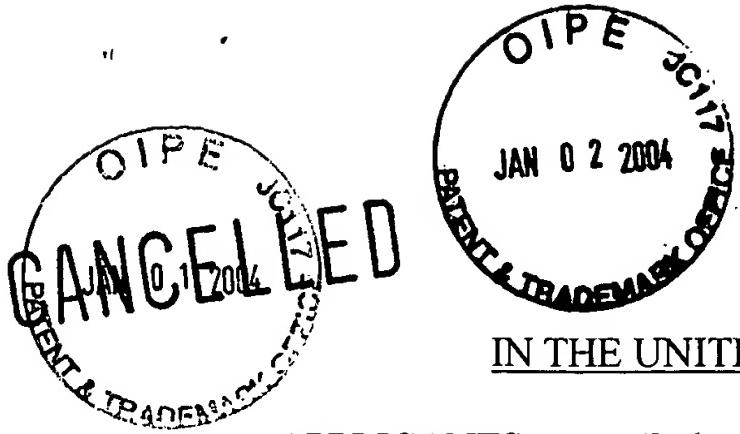
Respectfully submitted,



Peter DeLuca
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MRB/jjp



Atty. Docket No. 2788 (203-2854)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Roby, et al. EXAMINER: J.K. Michener
SERIAL NO.: 09/964,901 GROUP: 1762
FILED: September 27, 2001 DATED: December 31, 2003
FOR: **SILICONIZED SURGICAL
NEEDLES AND METHODS FOR
THEIR MANUFACTURE**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2003, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification are set forth on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 31, 2003.

Dated: December 31, 2003



Peter DeLuca